

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08730 241636Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----250035Z 024008 /12  
R 241603Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5396

S E C R E T CAIRO 8730

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, PLO  
SUBJECT: SADAT ON PLO

1. IN MY MEETING OF YESTERDAY WITH SADAT AND FAHMY IN ALEXANDRIA, SADAT RAISED SEVERAL TIMES THE QUESTION OF THE PLO. HE HAD HEARD PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT REAFFIRMATION OF OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH THE PLO UNLESS THE LATTER RECONGIZES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND UNSC RES 242. HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION. HOWEVER, HE AGAIN WISHED TO URGE THAT WE AT LEAST BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO. THIS, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD "SAVE FACE" FOR BOTH THE PALESTINIANS AND THE ISRAELIS.

2. AS SADAT SAW IT, THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEGIN AND THE PLO. IF THE PLO IS BRANDED AS A GROUP OF TERRORISTS, BEGIN FITS INTO THE SAME CATEGORY. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN THE BODIES OF THE MURDERS OF LORD MOYNE HAD BEEN RETURNED TO ISRAEL, BEGIN HAD PROMINENTLY APPEARED AT THE FUNERAL CEREMONY. BEGIN CLAIMS THAT IRGUN WAS A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT; THIS, SADAT CONTENTED, IS EQUALLY TRUE OF THE PLO.

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3. SADAT RECALLED THAT HE HAD LONG URGED US TO HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY REFRAINED FROM DOING SO BECAUSE OF ISRAELI SENSITIVITIES. WITH BEGIN'S ADVENT, SUCH SENSITIVITIES SHOULD SURELY NO LONGER APPLY. THE ME PEACE EFFORT, SADAT CONTENTED, WOULD BE IMMEASURABLY FURTHERED IF THE USG NOW BEGINS

A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO. IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE MODERATES AMONG THE PALESTINIANS. HE KNEW KING HUSSEIN'S OBJECTIONS, BUT RECALLED THAT HE HAD HIMSELF URGED ARAFAT TO DECLARE OPENLY AND FORMALLY PRIOR TO GENEVA SOME KIND OF AN ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN. HUSSEIN HAS ULTERIOR MOTIVES IN ARGUING AGAINST A US DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO AND SHOULD NOT BE HEEDED IN THIS MATTER.

4. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT OUR POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE PLO EXPLICITLY RECONGIZES THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST AND UNSC RES 242 AND 338, WE DO NOT SEE HOW IT IS AN ACCEPTABLE PARTNER FOR THE GENEVA TALKS. AS HE ALSO KNEW, THE WHOLE QUESTION OF A US DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO IS UNDER CONTINUING STUDY AND WILL HAVE TO BE DEICDED BY PRESDEINT CARTER.  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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